

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
August 13, 2018
Minutes

Committee members present: Chairman Bob Mott, Robb Jensen, Alan Van Raalte, and Jim Winkler. Excused: Mitch Ives and Kim Simac.

Others present: Steve Nelson, Karly Johnson, Sara Richie, Myles Alexander, Michele Sadauskas, Karl Jennrich, Stephanie, Jim Tharman, Manny Oradei, Tom Barnett, Lisa Charbarneau, and Merry Lehner.

Call to order: Chairman Mott called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. noting it was properly posted. The facility is handicapped accessible.

Approve Agenda: Motion by Van Raalte/Winkler to approve today's agenda with the order of the items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve Minutes: Van Raalte/Jansen made a motion to approve the 8/10/18 minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

Date(s) of Future meetings:

September 10, 2018	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room
October 8, 2018	1:00 p.m.	UWEX Conference Room

Bear Lake District Report:

Robb Jensen reported on Bear Lake Commissioners Meeting held April 4 where the by-laws will be in review. The May 1 meeting included a draft of the Lake District management plan. Dean Premo of Whitewater was asked to provide aquatic lake management alternatives and more detail on conclusions and recommendations.

Nokomis Lake District Report:

Alan Van Raalte reported on the August 11, 2018 Annual Meeting. The new Board Chairman will be Scott Swenty. There were 18.6 acres on Bridge Lake and four acres on Lake Nokomis chemically treated for Eurasian water milfoil. The district applied the remainder of the treatments funded by the DNR grant this year. A new lake management plan is due. Both Lake Nokomis and Bridge Lake will have a comprehensive plan. The district will be applying for a DNR grant which will cover 67% of the cost of the plan. The budget was approved by the commissioners and will include funds to work on the Lake Management Plan and a contingency fund to address unforeseen pollution or AIS issues. It included a \$25 per land owner assessment.

Early Detection-Rapid Response Grant Application: Non-native Phragmites

Stephanie Boismenu gave a slide presentation showing non-native phragmites found on the flowage by a homeowner here in Rhinelander. A request was made for the approval of the resolution to submit an application for a two-year grant to the WDNR for an aquatic invasive species Early Protection and Rapid response project. The dollar amount will not exceed \$5,000. The LWCD is to meet the County's 25% share of the financial obligation of this AIS grant, through the assignment of its personnel to work on and complete the project. There was discussion on chemical treatment of them with an herbicide, which the DNR recommended over manual removal. A motion was made to pass the resolution with the Committee's approval for Early Response Grant Application for non-native phragmites as presented, onto the County Board of Supervisors. All Ayes; motion carried.

Oneida County Wildlife Damage Crops Protection:

Jim Tharman explained the two reports sent out to the Committee. The first report is the 2017 Summary Report submitted by USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services which was given for their review. The second report lists the Abatement budget and total appraised losses; Oneida County had none because no claims were filed. Some had damage that had occurred in the County but no claims were submitted to the county. There is a \$500 deductible and a maximum of \$10,000 to pay out. If there was only damage of \$400, Tharman would not submit it. Counties can handle their own problems, if they wish. Wildlife Services usually administers the program. He is the administering for the County for their damage program. There will be additional permanent fences proposed for next year. Tharman excused at 1:35 p.m.

Interest in the Timber Bridge Rental or Purchase.

Sadauskas gave an update on the status on the timber bridge. LWC contacted loggers regarding the availability of the bridge but they have not had a good response renting it out. An email sent to surrounding county land /water and forestry departments did not produce much interest in purchasing or renting the bridge. Forest County showed some interest in purchasing it but no progress was made. Our Forestry Department is interested in using it, but no payment was discussed. Manny Oradei, DNR Forester, said the DNR forestry department said the bridge was paid for by Lumberjack RC&D. They did take it into Forest and Florence Counties in the past, but it has not been rented out for at least two years. They have been storing the bridge at the Highway Department. Sadauskas said there was maintenance performed on the decking, but that is the only costs involved, beside a tarp and storage of it. In the past, the Oneida County Forestry department was offered the bridge and it was requested to be under their department but they did not want the administration of the bridge. It was originally to be offered for public land use and public property owners to rent where they needed to get across creeks and rivers. By using the temporary bridge, it is a cost effective way to get across wash outs and other situations. A permit is required to span any waterway. The bridge can handle a semi-truck where the newer mats used cannot handle semi- trucks. The Committee asked that Land and Water contact John Bilogan in the Forestry department about taking ownership of the bridge. Then they can go ahead and use it and rent it out as needed. Sadauskas will do the fact finding and report back to the Committee.

Oradei and Boismenu excused 1:50 p.m.

LWCD Update:

Sadauskas reported that they will have the signage for Pollinator Garden by next month; the signs are on order at Genesis Graphics for printing. Next month she will be working on the Land and Water Resources Management Plan, which needs to be re-worked for next year. Sadauskas and Jennrich will be in Madison to present the brand new Land and Water Resources Management Plan, which will be on the agenda in the months to come. They will be building a technical and advisory committee to work on the plan throughout the year. Lastly, the NRCS summary on the report is available for review.

Cost Share Update:

Next week they have three site visits planned. There are six projects (including Blue Waters) on the list for 2019. Things are going well with the projects this year. They are busy and working at these. The Lake Nokomis project will be put on hold until next year. Allocations for 2019 are \$94,591.00 and they have more cost share money at \$46,475 more than last year.

Mining Update:

Karl Jennrich announced that Planning and Development will be meeting with William Scott and Steven Schreier at 9:30 on Wednesday, to discuss a memo received from William Scott. Mott mentioned the tour of the Lynne and Ladysmith sites. They stayed on ridge and looked down to see where the excavation site would be located. They will be visiting the Eagle site as well. Some 800 acres would be in the wetlands. The soil model shows how water flows and Winkler would like to present to board to educate on how water moves through soil. Myles Alexander and Stacey Johnson will be putting out white papers to educate the public. Business perspective wise, it is interesting to know what the potential impact of the mine will be. The cost benefit analysis will be discussed in more detail next month. The mining issue and the referendum issue are a separate category. The non-binding referendum.

2019 Land and Water Budget:

Three budget documents were presented to the Committee. The Wildlife Damage estimated budget, which is money in and money out, the AIS budget, where the grant pays for all the LTEs, education outreach, and Boismenu's wage, and the general Land Conservation budget, including all the grants involved. The LWD tax levy percentage is very low. A total of \$61,029.00 is listed for the budget. A motion was made by Van Raalte/Jensen for approval of 2019 Land and Water budget request as presented and forward onto to the Administration Committee. All ayes; motion passed.

Consent Agenda Items – Land and Water Conservation:

- a. Approve out-of-county travel requests: Jennrich, Sadauskas, and Boismenu.
- b. Approve monthly budget report(s)
- c. Approve Monthly invoices/purchase orders.
- d. Line item transfers

Mott attended the Plum Lake tour where an electronic underground camera is being set up to take videos of every boat launch. An electronic sign will post messages to boaters asking to check boat for weeds, emptying out bilges, etc. A reduction in any sort of offenders has been noted where they have been in use. All the data is sent to a central location for enforcement, when needed. It is working well in Minnesota where people are more compliant with the rules. The cost is \$8,000 per device.

A motion was made by Van Raalte/Winkler to accept items a through d monthly budget report and approve the monthly expenses and line item transfers as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Excused: Jennrich and Boismenu at 1:50 p.m. Sadauskas and at 2:00 p.m.

County Fair Report/Update:

Winkler reported Fair went very well. Attendance was 12,562. The number could be higher because some gates did not have full coverage with the counters. The Fair was crowded when the sun was out and less when it was rainy outside. County Board members Billy Fried, Steven Schreire, and Scott Holowinski attended and gave good reports. In general, there was a good turn-out of volunteers. A lack of volunteers at Exhibit Court on Tuesday, after the Fair, was laborious task. Many positive reports were received from the community. Entertainment attendance was up. People were happy with the condition of the rides and courtesy of the personnel from K&M Amusements. The trolleys cannot be returned to the River Street Garage; they must vacate by September 10. The City will help with storage of the trolley for now. Winkler, Barnett, Fried, Troy Huber and LuAnn Brunette had a meeting last Friday to discuss temporary storage solutions. A permanent storage building with a roof is needed. This prompted a capital improvement request to possibly build additional storage at the existing Fair facilities. Winkler requested this as a September agenda item with Building and Grounds in attendance. The Fair stage is stored at Pioneer Park garage. It was proposed to build an addition to the existing garage with a large garage door to accommodate the stage.

The Committee commended Barnett for his hard work and devotion on coordinating the Fair. Barnett commented the Fair, despite the weather, was successful. The variety show Miller and Mike and the Dangerous Fun Show, a rock band, was well a hit with the youth. The Kilt Contest with Jeff Weller, from Channel 12, as emcee was very entertaining. It was suggested that McNaughton could be utilized more and if we have to pay more, we should. A Fair Committee meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, Tuesday, August 14, 2018. They will be evaluating the Fair.

Fair Display Case

The old display cases are not waterproof and need to be replaced. Barnett made drawing of the proposed new cases. The cases cannot be sold because they are property of the County. The Committee will need to give approval of selling old ones. McNaughton will build two proto-types of the proposed cases. Mott checked with Darcy Smith in Finance and once approved by the Committee, the Fair could proceed with their plans to sell the old display cases. She provided the process to be followed to Mott. They will build one or two to see how they will work out and see what the cost of materials will be. A motion was made by Jensen/Van Raalte to use the revenue on sale of the old case to build new cases through the budget process described with revenue being deposited to the Treasurer's office. All ayes; motion carried.

Consent Agenda Items – Oneida County Fair:

- a. Monthly Budget Report – June 2018
- b. Approve Monthly invoices/purchase orders/vendor contracts

A motion was made by Jensen/Winkler to accept line items a through b as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Excused: Barnett 2:20 p.m. Sadauskas at 3:00 p.m.

Consent Agenda Items – UW Extension:

- a. Approve monthly budget reports – June 2018
- b. Approve Monthly invoices/purchase orders.

Jensen/Van Raalte moved to accept the monthly budget report and monthly expenses as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Teen Court Coordinator Update:

Feldman cannot accept the private contractor position due to not being able to acquire liability insurance. If the position would be offered through the County, the insurance would be covered. This was confirmed by Lisa Charbarneau, who also stated that a former employee cannot become an LTE for 75 days. Nelson wondered if Feldman could volunteer her time to

train the teen court panel. It was discussed whether Social Services could take on the position as an LTE in 2019. It would cost \$10,000 as a private contractor or they could ask Mary Rideout, Social Services, if she would house the position, but it would not be out of her budget. Judge O'Melia is anxious to see Teen Court continue. Now, until December 31, we are in limbo and cannot take on any cases. The Teen Court program is run by various organizations in different counties. The Committee would like to see position for 2018 continued if Feldman is willing to do so and it is desired to keep the position as an LTE for 2019. An action item is needed for the Teen Court position at the September 10 meeting. A motion was made by Winkler/Van Raalte to pursue an LTE position, working with LRES, for Teen Court for the remainder of 2018. All ayes; motion carried.

4-H Position Update:

Andrea Ripley has a written acceptance letter for the 4-H Youth Development position, with a start date of September 4. This 4-H position is a .50 position each for Price and Oneida Counties. Nelson received an approval for the other half of the Youth Development position at .50. It will be a stand-alone position in Oneida County would be at .50 and there is currently no other county to share that position. The alternative, and the model of Florence County, is a .75 educator. If the County wanted to fund an additional 25% themselves, funding would be required for the salary and fringes for anything above the 50% of State allocated funds. The additional cost to the County would be \$18,200. This was not put in the budget but is an alternative. There is a long list of programs this .75 position could utilize.

Program Assistant to Full Time:

If Lehner moved to a full time position, this would be an increase of \$12,857 in the 2019 budget, with Tillmann remaining as a .53 LTE. With Tillmann working a lesser number hours it is difficult for Lehner to maintain all office functions, working part time. The Program Assistant position will go from 29.75 to 37.50 hours, defined as full time. Charbarneau said a third party consulting firm, Carlson and Dettman, will be looking at the wage schedules and reviewing positions that have changed significantly. There could be a reclassification of the full time position if accepted. At that time, it will be reassessed. The full time increase to the budget is \$12,857 and will bring the bottom line to \$194,217.

2019 UW Extension Budget:

The 4-H and Youth Development positions, Teen Court, and the Program Assistant position have all been reviewed with their impact on the bottom line for the 2019 Budget. Mott/Van Raalte made a motion to accept the presented 2019 \$194,217 budget figure pending the Carlson and Dettman review with the Labor Employee Relations meeting. All ayes; motion carried. Lisa Charbarneau excused at 3:30 p.m.

Office Room Furniture:

An updated quote on new conference room furniture was presented at a total cost of \$10,687.24 and if approved will be forwarded to Building and Grounds, once the Committee Chair signs the Equipment Request Form. It was suggested that the conference room itself could use and upgrade and it was requested to have the Airport Manager attend the September meeting. A motion was made by Van Raalte/Winkler to approve the conference room seating as presented.

Agent reports:

The educators all provided a short summary of their program activities which will replace the printed Agent Report. An Electronic Monthly update will replace Extension Newspaper. If there is a significant update, an agent report will be written. Sara Richie will start facilitating Strengthening Families with the Health Department the end of September at Ascension Lutheran Church in Minocqua. Karly Harrison and Heather Corilla, Oneida County Health Department, are working on donor education project with the Rhinelander Food Pantry. They have developed a logo for Food Drive Five to educate donors on providing low sodium canned fruits and vegetables, 100 % juice, whole grains, and soups with protein and vegetables, to promote healthy food selections. Myles Alexander is working with Stacey Johnson on educating the public about mining and the mining referendum. Due to the complexity of the issues it is important to know what issues are involved. A county wide education effort will include focus groups and public engagement to get a reasonable representation about the referendum and mining to see what is understood and what is not understood. Information will be posted on a website and they will offer on-site tours of mining towns. They will develop white papers with experts from all areas involved.

Office Air Environment:

Two reports logged one for fumes and the other for sewer back up odors. The airport is tearing down the old restaurant site upstairs, where the sink vent pipes are causing the sewer odor.

Public Comment: None

Items to Include on next Agenda:

Timber bridge, Mining update, Cost Share, LWCD update, Thunder Lake District Report, 2018 Teen court update, Community Youth Dev Educator update, Program Assistant update, Educator Update (replaces Agent Report on Agenda), Program Assistant, Office Air, Conference Room discussion with Airport Manager, Fair and Building and Grounds- storage facility discussion.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Winkler/Van Raalte to adjourn at 4:20 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merry Lehner, Recording Secretary

Bob Mott, Committee Chair